

Dan Flavin

MEDIUM Sculpture

NATIONALITY American

LIFE DATES Jamaica, New York 1933 - 1996 Riverhead, New York

Dan Flavin was born in Jamaica, New York. After attending seminary in Brooklyn, New York, he served in the military and studied art through a University of Maryland Extension Program in Korea during the mid-1950s. After returning to the U.S. he took art history courses at the New School for Social Research and Columbia University, although he was self-taught as an artist.

In the summer of 1961, while working as a guard at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, Dan Flavin began sketches for sculptures incorporating electric light. After 1963, his sculptures exclusively came to use commercially produced fluorescent light tubes and fixtures, and by the late 1960s he was creating room-size installations of light. He executed several commissions including lighting several train platforms at Grand Central Station in 1977. Among his most important installations was lighting the rotunda of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, in 1992.

